

10 February 2021

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source to enable an **allocation increase of 2% of entitlement for general security licence holders**. This allocation brings the total general security allocation to 30% of entitlement for the current water year, noting that all other licence categories have already received full (100%) allocations. The improvement comes mostly from reduced system losses.

Inflows totalling 35,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam during the remainder of January were anticipated in the last statement and have been confirmed. Water associated with that streamflow recession and inflow was therefore allocated in January. The seasonal outlook remains favourable for further rainfall and inflows in coming months.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage	
Cudgegong	100%	30%		Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	30%		Stage 1

Further rainfall and inflows received during February will contribute to the next assessment and allocation announcement in March. Indicative inflow volumes required to provide further general security allocations this summer are provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook runs through to May 2022, some 16 months, and aims to ensure that next water year's higher priority needs can be met before further allocating to general security entitlements this water year.

Storage levels (as at 9 February 2021)

- Burrendong Dam is 39.9% full – falling – holding about 495,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 29.0% full – falling – holding about 107,000 ML.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source is currently at Stage 1 meaning normal river operations, and contingency measures are not expected to be required in the current water year.

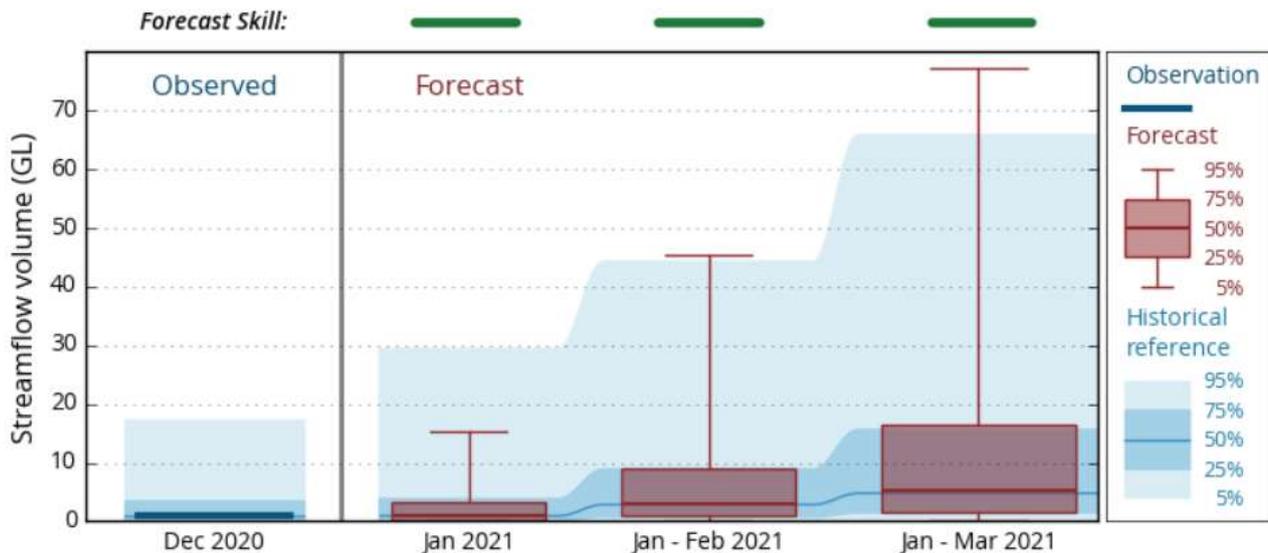
Seasonal inflow and climatic outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Turon River that drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indicative distribution of potential inflows.

Distribution of forecast inflows from January to March are very similar to the historical distribution, indicating that there is no clear sign of forecast conditions being drier or wetter than average.

Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for Jan 2021 – Mar 2021



For further information: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that rainfall over the catchment is likely to be average to above average. Daytime temperatures are likely to be near average while night-time temperatures are likely to be above average.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Key facts

- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Based on historic inflows over 119 years, there is less than a 5% chance that Burrendong Dam may spill by the end of February 2021.
- Should Burrendong Dam physically spill (including pre-release) in the coming weeks, general security and EWA carryover volumes will be protected from forfeiture until 28 February 2021.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments, including delivery of planned environmental water and effluent replenishments.
- A bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam is not likely to be required before February 2022.
- Delivery of stock and domestic replenishment flows in 2021 will largely rely on tributary flows in preference to dam releases.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



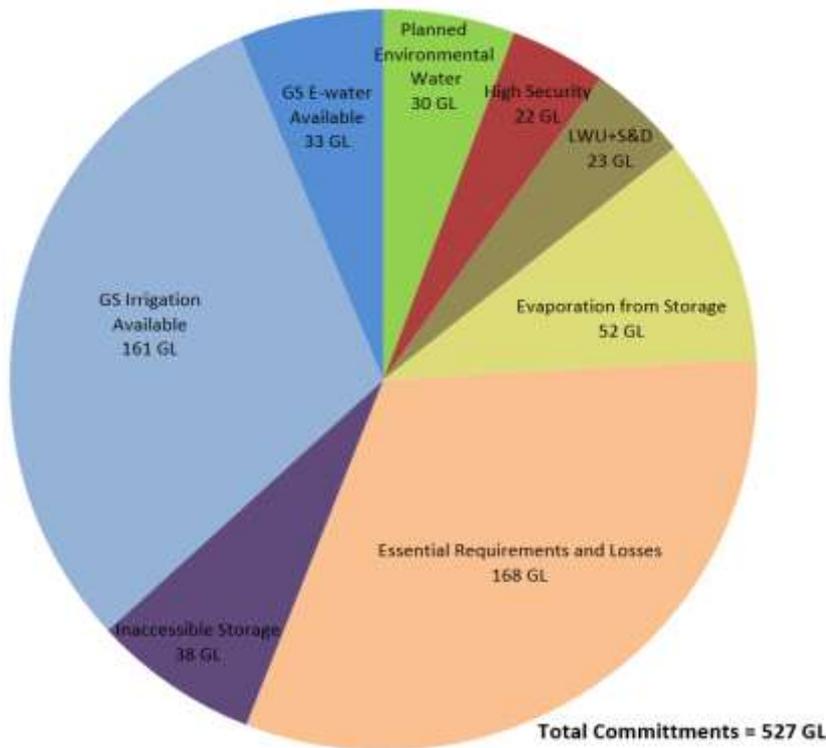
Resource Distribution (February 2021 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	527
<i>less</i>	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	36
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	30
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	23
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	38
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	22
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	158
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	168
Evaporation from Storage	52
<i>equals</i>	
Water available for allocation (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) Total Resources: Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus recession flows plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from February 2021 to May 2022 plus 8 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes Cudgegong), discounted for evaporative losses.
- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security: reserves required to meet the projected use by these licence categories below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Essential Requirements and Losses: Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 16 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Inaccessible storage: Dead storage of 34 GL plus 4 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). We are reporting HEW administered by the environmental water holders here. The associated portions of general security allocation are identified in the pie chart. This reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 33 GL of GS and 0 GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPIE Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites
- (8) All available water is fully allocated with no resource deficit.

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Inflow required to provide the next general security allocation (estimate as at 9 February 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL) Minimum inflow* required before AWD can be made	Inflows (GL) Inflow required for additional 10% allocation
By end of February	>0	84
By end of March	>0	84
By end of April	>0	84

* Under the current design minimum inflow sequence, zero inflow is assumed for February, March and April.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 10 March 2021**.

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